

WORK EXPERIENCE IS NOW KEY TO HEARING 'YOU'RE HIRED'

As graduates begin to flood the difficult job market, research by Gumtree.com reveals work experience makes candidates 95 per cent more employable

In an already strained job market with youth unemployment up a third since 2008*, the release of 300,000 of new graduates into the market as summer terms draw to a close will make the job hunting prospect especially daunting. New research from Gumtree.com released today reveals that the key to hearing the words 'You're Hired' in the current competitive climate is solid work experience.

As The Apprentice winner, Yasmina Siadatan, completes her first week in Sir Alan's empire having won his respect and trust over a twelve week on-the-job trial, the new Gumtree.com research reveals that 95 per cent of employers believe that work experience is more important than ever before. Employers believe candidates with a good work experience record are more knowledgeable (67 per cent), more confident (44 per cent) and more committed (40 per cent) giving them the vital edge over of the competition.

According to Gumtree.com research, professionals looking to switch careers due to rising unemployment and lack of job availability should also seek work experience as 80 per cent of employers recommend this as the most valuable first step to a new career path.

Gumtree.com recruitment expert and author of 'How to get a job in the recession', Denise Taylor, said: "From young people who are looking to secure their first job, to anyone who may have found themselves unexpectedly unemployed or looking for a change of career, work experience is the best way to get your foot in the door and secure a permanent role. Demonstrating your suitability in the day-to-day environment, showing an aptitude and interest in the role, and proving yourself as a reliable, trustworthy and committed employee is key to impressing your prospective boss.

"With unemployment levels continuing to rise, there are now often hundreds of people applying for the same roles. Where candidates have secured work experience, now is the

perfect opportunity to show how much value you can add and make yourself indispensable in the work place.”

Mark Lister from Gumtree.com said: “Despite the downturn in the jobs market, we are continuing to see a healthy supply of work experience and internship roles advertised through Gumtree.com. As well as advertising roles within their relevant sector on the website, those looking for invaluable work experience should also look at our ‘Student & Graduate’ listings.

“Currently there are work experience adverts in roles as diverse as working in an events company, within a hospital as a care assistant or as a subeditor on a technology website, right through to experience at a digital design agency, at an accountancy firm, within a new renewable energy start-up and at a diamond manufacturer.”

Gumtree.com recruitment expert and author Denise Taylors’ top tips for getting a job

1. **Talk to people** – get out there and let as many people as you can know what you are looking for and why you will be great at a job. Talk with people who are doing the job to learn more about what’s involved and to build contacts.
2. **Gain work experience** - make sure you give your CV the edge. Secure work experience either from volunteering or taking an entry level job. The best place to start your search is online; sites such as Gumtree.com are great places to find out about volunteering opportunities and internships. It’s worth checking the site regularly to make sure you are on top of all the opportunities out there.
3. **Go beyond a great CV** - have a blog/personal web site to demonstrate how great you are with examples of work, testimonials and anything else that might be relevant. The examples can be from voluntary work and university projects not just paid employment.
4. **Be clear why you want the job you are applying for** - Read up as much as you can on what the job involves and look for examples from hobbies, voluntary experience and holiday jobs and include these in your CV and letter.
5. **Research the company** – find out as much as you can about the company, the industry, any potential challenges, it helps you stand out as your application can be targeted at the company and not appear like a generalised application.

ENDS

For more information, trends, statistics and comment, please contact the Gumtree.com Press Office at 3 Monkeys Communications on hellogumtree@3-Monkeys.co.uk or call us on 020 7009 3109.

Notes to editors:

Recognising the importance of Work experience The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Dius) launched a "graduate talent pool" in April as part of its internship programme.

Findings from The UK Graduate Careers Survey 2009 about the 'Class of 2009' found that: Students' confidence in the graduate job market is at an all-time low since the survey was launched in 1995, with a record 52% of university-leavers describing prospects for new graduates as very limited.

* Office for National Statistics

About the Research

1000 employers were surveyed in an online poll by 72point.com.

Please ensure you attribute all results and findings of this survey to Gumtree.com

For more information or case studies please contact the Gumtree.com press office at 3 Monkeys Communications on 020 7009 3109 or email hellogumtree@3-monkeys.co.uk

About Gumtree.com

The choice, speed and flexibility of the site means you're only a click or two away from finding exactly what you need in a friendly, community environment

- Gumtree.com was created in London in March 2000 and now covers 60 cities across 6 countries - the UK, and US Ireland, Poland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa
- It is the UK's biggest website for local community classifieds including flat share, flat rentals and jobs

Some Fast Facts

- 20,000 new ads in a day
- 100,000 new ads in a week
- Half a million new ads in a month
- One million ads live on the site at any one time
- 150 million page impressions every month
- Around 6 million visitors a month
- Gumtree.com users spend 5,360,000 minutes on the website each month

Gumtree is your local community online. Home to all the things you'd expect from your local community; a place to find and advertise rooms, flats and houses, a notice board for selling and buying stuff, somewhere to find job or a date even just to chat with friends